WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

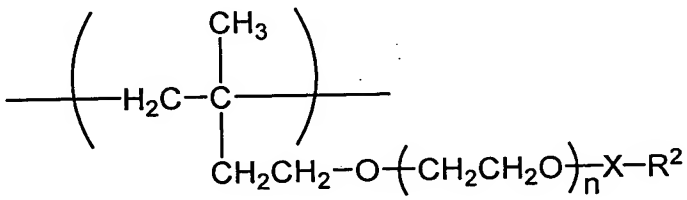
1. A thickener for water-based vibration damper, which contains a polymer comprising an alkali-soluble monomer unit and an associating monomer unit.

2. A thickener for water-based vibration damper according to claim 1, wherein the associating monomer unit possesses in a side chain thereof a group represented by the following formula (I):

$$-(R^1 - O)_n-X-R^2 \qquad (I)$$

(wherein R^1 denotes at least one group selected from the group consisting of methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, and butylene group, n denotes a number in the range of 10 - 300, X denotes a direct bond, -C(=O)-, or -C(=O)NH-, and R^2 denotes a hydrocarbon group of 6 - 30 carbon atoms).

3. A thickener for water-based vibration damper according to claim 2, wherein the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

(wherein n, X, and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above).

4. A thickener for water-based vibration damper according to claims 1, wherein the polymer further comprises a monomer unit which originates in an ethylenically unsaturated monomer, and the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is copolymerizable with a monomer that is a raw material for an alkali-soluble monomer unit and a monomer that is raw material for the associating monomer unit.

5. A thickener for water-based vibration damper according to claim 4, wherein the proportion of the

alkali-soluble monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 20 - 69 mol% based on the total amount of all the monomer units, the proportion of the associating monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 0.001 - 2.0 mol% based on the total amount of all the monomer units, and the proportion of the monomer unit originating in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 30 - 79% based on the total amount of all the monomer units.

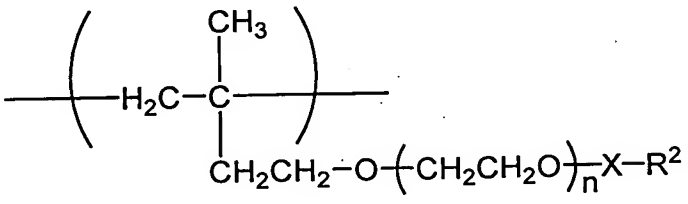
6. A composition for vibration damper, which comprises a thickener for water-based vibration damper containing a polymer comprising an alkali-soluble monomer unit and an associating monomer unit, an water-based copolymer latex, and an inorganic filler.

7. A composition for vibration damper according to claim 6, wherein the associating monomer unit possesses in a side chain thereof a group represented by the following formula (I):

$$-(R^1 - O)_n-X-R^2 \qquad (I)$$

(wherein R^1 denotes at least one group selected from the group consisting of methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, and butylene group, n denotes a number in the range of 10 - 300, X denotes a direct bond, -C(=O)-, or -C(=O)NH-, and R^2 denotes a hydrocarbon group of 6 - 30 carbon atoms).

8. A composition for vibration damper according to claim 7, wherein the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

(wherein n, X, and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above).

9. A composition for vibration damper according to claims 6, wherein the polymer further comprises a monomer unit which originates in an ethylenically unsaturated monomer, and the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is copolymerizable with a monomer that is a raw material for an alkali-soluble monomer unit and a monomer that is raw material for the associating monomer unit.

10. A composition for vibration damper according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of the alkali-soluble monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 20 - 69 mol% based on the total amount of all the monomer units, the proportion of the associating monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 0.001 - 2.0 mol% based on the total amount of all the monomer units, and the proportion of the monomer unit originating in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 30 - 79% based on the total amount of all the monomer units.